



# HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

A quarterly newsletter for Housing and Community Development

## WAITLIST OPENING FOR VOUCHER PROGRAM

The City of Mesa Housing Authority will be accepting pre-applications for the tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) online from Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 10 a.m. through Monday, Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. This will be a web-based pre-application process. The application is available at [www.mesaaz.gov/hcvwaitlist](http://www.mesaaz.gov/hcvwaitlist).

The website includes a list of public locations with free computer access. City of Mesa Housing staff will be available at these locations Tuesday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist with submitting applications. Public computers are not available at the City of Mesa Housing Authority Office.

The City of Mesa is committed to making its programs and services accessible. For accommodations such as paper applications for persons with disabilities, in braille, large print or translation for persons speaking another language, please contact Mary Brandon at the City of Mesa Housing Authority, (480) 644-5852 or email [mary.brandon@mesaaz.gov](mailto:mary.brandon@mesaaz.gov), or front desk at (480) 644-3536, or AzRelay 7-1-1 for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information, please see the Instructions for Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Limited English.



## HOME FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The City of Mesa is now accepting applications for the Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) applications are due by close of business Nov. 17, 2016. As a result of new HOME rules, the Housing and Community Development Division has updated the policies for this program. To access the policy and procedure manual and guidelines, please see the HOME Investment Partnership Program page at [www.mesaaz.gov/residents/housing-community-development/home-investment-partnership-program](http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/housing-community-development/home-investment-partnership-program).

### LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT (LIHTC) DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Whether or not you are seeking funding or project support from the City of Mesa, developers must give the City's Housing and Community Development Office NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR LIHTC TAX CREDITS and complete the LIHTC Project Profile Brief for public review/comment, and submission to City Council for consideration. LIHTC applicants seeking financial support from the City must also submit a HOME Program Rental Housing Production application.

For more information, including the funding schedule, visit [www.mesaaz.gov/housing](http://www.mesaaz.gov/housing), or contact Mesa Community Development Revitalization Coordinator Ra'Chel'Ni Mar'Na at [RaChelNi.MarNa@mesaaz.gov](mailto:RaChelNi.MarNa@mesaaz.gov) or (480) 644-3020.

## CAPER

The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) summarizes the City of Mesa's performance in meeting the objectives and strategies outlined in its 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan during the 2015-2016 program year. A draft of the CAPER is available online at [www.mesaaz.gov/housing](http://www.mesaaz.gov/housing).



## HOUSING MASTER PLAN

The Housing and Community Development Division has been tasked with updating the Housing Master Plan, which will be incorporated into the City of Mesa General Plan. The purpose of a Housing Master Plan is to provide a broad and comprehensive set of data related to all housing inventory types and varieties in Mesa as well as policies to help City Council make informed and consistent decisions for housing proposals throughout the City. The Housing Master Plan will supplement the Consolidated Plan which identifies housing and community development priorities for the purpose of focusing funding for CDBG, ESG, and HOME programs.

The Housing Master Plan is currently under the initial steps of Phase I. Phase I includes data gathering and research, in which a consultant would be retained to research the current housing inventory and collect supporting information on the impact of housing development that has occurred in Mesa in the last 10 years. The consultant would also be tasked with providing projections on housing trends for the next 10 years. Once this information is gathered, the results will be presented to the City Council and the community.



## REGIONAL NAVIGATION PARTNERSHIP FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

The use of “navigators” to advocate for and assist homeless Veterans in accessing housing and needed support services has emerged as a successful tool in Mesa, Phoenix and other cities nationwide. Mesa uses federal funding to provide two full-time navigators in the city. Since 2015 and with navigation assistance, 121 Veterans have been successfully taken off the street and housed. Of those, 87 percent have remained in their homes. Currently, Mesa has a total of 170 housed veterans.



Mesa is committing \$25,000 in federal VASH funding to partner with Phoenix, which is creating a “Regional By Name Listing” of all homeless veterans contacted in the region. The idea is to create proven, region-wide documentation and collaboration for homeless veterans to close an identified “gap” in the system. Mesa is part of the Request for Proposal and selection process to hire two more navigators to ensure all navigators in the region are collaborating and that the results are accurate. Joint performance measures will be tracked in order to evaluate outcomes prior to consideration of future federal funding contributions.

## FSS GRADUATION

On Oct. 6, the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Alliance will honor program participants from the cities of Mesa, Tempe, Chandler and Scottsdale at Chandler Center for the Arts. Mesa has eight graduates completing the FSS program this year. These families have significantly increased their earned income and achieved personal goals, including GEDs, college degrees, new employment and job promotions, debts paid, savings accounts and homebuyer preparation. We are proud of them and appreciate city and community partners who guide them with opportunities to become self-sufficient.

FSS is a HUD voluntary program designed to assist families in low-income housing (HCV/Section 8 and Public Housing programs) in achieving economic independence and self-sufficiency through goal setting and case management. Participants are considered self-sufficient and graduate FSS when goals are accomplished and/or income exceeds rental subsidy program limits, including being off government cash assistance for a minimum of 12 months.

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Several community projects are scheduled this fall in the first neighborhood selected for the City of Mesa’s Love Your Neighborhood program. The boundaries for the neighborhood are from Broadway Road to Main Street, and Extension Road to Robson.



Among the community projects taking place:

- Phoenix Job Corps has started the prep work for a mural painting of a wall at American Legion Post 26, 505 W. 2nd Ave. The mural, representing the armed forces, will be painted Oct. 22 on Make a Difference Day in partnership with HandsOn Greater Phoenix
- On Make a Difference Day, volunteers will be completing yard cleanups, delivering resource bags and assisting the neighborhood with debris removal
- On Nov. 5, a volunteer group will be cleaning the alleys in the neighborhood
- Clean Sweep dumpsters will be available Dec. 8-Dec. 19
- Major housing rehabilitation projects such as kitchen remodeling, roof repairs, plumbing and electrical work
- Minor exterior housing rehabilitation such as replacement of exterior decorated fascia, trim, siding, posts and beams
- Other volunteer projects such as house paintings

The City of Mesa’s Love Your Neighborhood program is dedicated to assisting Mesa neighborhoods in being clean, safe, diverse, and economically vibrant places to live. Selected neighborhoods are identified based on statistical data provided by What Works Cities, an initiative committed to using data and evidence-based practices to improve the lives of Mesa residents.

The majority of funding for Love Your Neighborhood during the 2016/2017 fiscal year is from CDBG funding approved by Mesa City Council. Existing resources will be provided from several City departments including Housing and Community Development, Code Compliance, Police and Economic Development. The City is also going through the selection process for a consultant to assist the City in the implementation of the program.

Ray Thimesch, Housing Revitalization Administrator, is the Project Manager over the CDBG portion of Love Your Neighborhood while Laura Rodriguez is the Volunteer Coordinator for the program.

For more information, visit [www.mesaaz.gov/lyn](http://www.mesaaz.gov/lyn).

## NONPROFIT PARTNER PROFILE: PAZ DE CRISTO

Paz de Cristo Community Center, 424 W. Broadway, opened in 1988 and has a simple mission: to feed, provide clothing and offer empowerment programs that provide its guests with the basic necessities to get through the day. They currently average more than 6,500 visits representing 2,100 unique guests every month at Paz. While many of these people make multiple visits and have been coming to Paz for months or even years, they average almost 600 individuals each month that arrive at Paz for the first time ever.



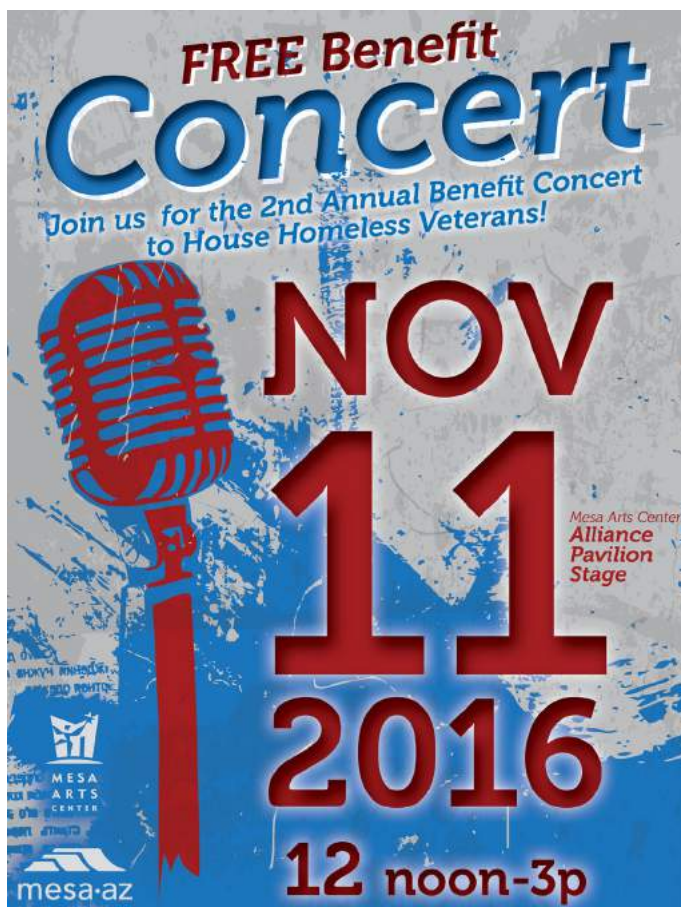
Food has been a critical part of the mission since Paz's inception. Between their evening meal service and food box distribution, they provide over 50,000 meals each and every month to the homeless, the unemployed, the working poor and senior citizens.

One of the most significant ways to effect a meaningful change in the lives of those they serve is to help them get a job. That is why they started the Career Employment Opportunity (CEO) Program.

Since the program started, over 1000 individuals have made 2100 visits to their job center to get assistance with resumes, job searches, job leads and individual coaching from volunteers. About one-third of those enrolled in the program get a job.

Paz has joined a collaboration with the City of Mesa, the VA and Community Bridges to find housing for Mesa Veterans. Chaired by Councilmembers Kevin Thompson and Chris Glover, the goal is to identify and find housing in Mesa for qualified veterans. So far they have met with 140 homeless veterans at Paz de Cristo that have requested information for this program in hopes of getting them housing. In the past year, Paz has partnered with Mesa and Community Bridges to receive a grant for a full time navigator to be located at Paz to work with various government agencies for funding and support to help the homeless, particularly homeless veterans.

With only six full-time staff members, Paz de Cristo relies heavily on volunteers as well as collaborations with other nonprofit groups and agencies. Paz averages about 800 volunteers each month to provide services to its guests.



### VETERANS CONNECT CONCERT

A free Veterans' Benefit Concert will be held immediately following the East Valley Veterans Parade Friday, Nov. 11 at the Mesa Arts Center Alliance Pavilion Stage. Help support the Mesa Veteran's Programs while enjoying a free concert, live performers, food trucks and more! Donations will benefit Housing Our Heroes to provide housing for homeless veterans. Visit [www.mesaaz.gov/vets](http://www.mesaaz.gov/vets) or call (480) 644-6536 for more information.



## EMPLOYEE NEWS

Congratulations to **KEVIN WOODS**, Housing Quality Standards Inspector, who retired Sept. 29 after 20 years of service with the City of Mesa

We welcome two new staff members: **JENNI HALE**, Administrative Support Assistant I and **MARTIN LARA-REYES**, Housing Quality Standards Inspector



## NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK

We have been publishing Housing Highlights on a quarterly basis since 2011. We want to know what you like about it and what we can improve. Please contact Kevin Christopher, Public Information Specialist, at [kevin.christopher@mesaaz.gov](mailto:kevin.christopher@mesaaz.gov).

# CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/EVENTS

**THUR., OCT. 6.** HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**THUR., OCT. 6.** FSS GRADUATION. 6:30pm. Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave.

**TUES., OCT. 11 at 10am to MON., OCT. 17 at 5pm.** HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED ONLINE.

**SAT., OCT. 15.** HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT. 8am-Noon. East Mesa Service Center, 6935 E. Decatur St.

**SAT., OCT. 15.** GILBERT ROAD LIGHT RAIL GROUNDBREAKING. 9am. Northeast corner of Main Street and Stapley Drive (former Mervyn's location)

**SAT., OCT. 15.** EAST VALLEY VETERAN'S RESOURCE FAIR. 8am-2pm. East Valley Veterans Resource Center, 3320 S. Price Road, Tempe.

**SAT., OCT. 15.** CELEBRATE MESA. 5pm-9pm. Red Mountain Soccer Complex, 905 N. Sun Valley Drive.

**MON., OCT. 17.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**TUES., OCT. 18.** DISTRICT 3 BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS ORIENTATION MEETING. 6:30pm. Whittier Elementary School, 733 N. Longmore.

**SAT., OCT. 22.** MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY. 7am-1pm. Various locations in Mesa.

**SAT., OCT. 22.** MESA ADVENTURE CHALLENGE. 11am-2pm. Downtown Mesa.

**FRI., OCT. 28.** COPPERSTATE FLY-IN. 8am-5pm. Falcon Field Airport, 4800 E. Falcon Drive.

**SAT., OCT. 29.** COPPERSTATE FLY-IN. 8am-5pm. Falcon Field Airport, 4800 E. Falcon Drive.

**SAT., OCT. 29.** WINGSTOCK. 11am-5pm. Mesa Amphitheatre and Mesa Convention Center campus, 263 N. Center St.

**THUR., NOV. 3.** HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**SAT., NOV. 5.** G.A.I.N. (GETTING ARIZONA INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOODS), 4pm-8pm. Various locations in Mesa.

**MON., NOV. 7.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**TUES., NOV. 8.** ELECTION DAY. Polls open 6am-7pm.

**THUR., NOV. 10.** MESA MUSIC FESTIVAL. Noon-11pm. Downtown Mesa.

**FRI., NOV. 11.** EAST VALLEY VETERANS PARADE. 11am. Downtown Mesa.

**FRI., NOV. 11.** VETERAN'S BENEFIT CONCERT. Noon-3pm. Mesa Arts Center Alliance Pavilion Stage, 1 E. Main St.

**FRI. NOV. 11.** MESA MUSIC FESTIVAL. NOON-11pm. Downtown Mesa.

**SAT., NOV. 12.** MESA MUSIC FESTIVAL. NOON-11pm. Downtown Mesa.

**MON., NOV. 21.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**FRI., NOV. 25.** MERRY MAIN STREET GRAND OPENING. 5pm-10pm. Downtown Mesa.

**THUR., DEC. 1.** HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD. 6pm. Lower Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**SAT., DEC. 3.** HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT. 8am-Noon. Center Street Facility, 2412 N. Center St.

**MON., DEC. 5.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.

**MON., DEC. 12.** CITY COUNCIL. 5:45pm. Upper Level Council Chambers, 57 E. 1st St.



### CONTACT:

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

480-644-3536 | [housing.info@mesaaz.gov](mailto:housing.info@mesaaz.gov) | Hours 7am-6pm Monday-Thursday